M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84

THE GULL
MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES LIBRARY
AUG 29 1957

Volume 39 Berkeley, California, September, 1957 Number 9

CONSERVATION NOTES

Here are some kernels from the legislative mills. California fishermen, hikers, and other outdoor users did *not* get the measure they most wanted to facilitate the opening of municipal reservoirs and adjacent lands where and when sanitation problems do not preclude such public use. They did get one of three such bills finally signed by the Governor, but it appears to give utility district officers too much leeway in defining "terminal reservoirs," thus denying recreational uses. The Masterson Bill, which passed but was pocket-vetoed, was the measure we wanted. And, by the way, have *you* written to your EBMUD directors to express your thoughts on future use of San Pablo and other local watershed lands?

Looking at the credit side of the legislative slate, may we again express pleasure and satisfaction with the passage and signing of the new bird protective law giving better protection to hawks and owls. Steller's and Scrub Jays, crows, Black-billed Magpies and English Sparrows are still "outside the law" but Audubon members should exercise discretion in announcing this fact to young gunners and other individuals who may show more hunting zeal than just cause for shooting these unprotected species. As for would-be falconers of all ages, be sure they are informed of the new restrictions and $15 state license before they rob another nest!

If you are confused by the uproar in Congress, the press, and some conservation periodicals over those proposed dams in Idaho, here's the gist of it. The ominous Bruces Eddy Dam on the Clearwater River, Hell's Canyon on the Snake, and several lesser dams all seem pretty dead ducks at this writing but could easily come to life early in the next Congress. As conservationists we *must continue to oppose* Bruces Eddy, which would take a terrible toll of fisheries and wildlife. It looks as if we'll have to plug for the high Hell's Canyon Dam, which would cause far less havoc and take the pressure off Bruces Eddy. (And we don't care at the moment who builds it — private capital or government.) With new sources of atomic power looming, perhaps we can write off many such future dams.

At this writing, it appears that some measure to restrict land grabs of wildlife refuges and other public lands by the military will become law, thanks to the efforts of Congressman Clair Engle and others. While we cannot expect Congressional passage of a "Wilderness Preservation Bill" this session, popular demand and Congressional sentiment point to some such enactment by the next Congress. And it appears that some of our existing wetlands may be saved and others acquired for waterfowl habitat and other resource and recreational use through changes in the Coordination Act, Soil Bank Program, and allocations from the Duck Stamp Act. Please watch and support legislators who work for these things.

Widespread attention in Congress and elsewhere among conservationists is being focused on the dangers of wholesale spraying of marshes, fields and forests in insect control. We hope the Fish and Wildlife Service will get funds to carry out research on the effects of these poison campaigns on fish, wildlife, and beneficial insects. We hope to submit more facts on this controversy in a later issue.

— Paul F. Covel, *President*.

RICHARDSON BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

In order that there may be no misunderstanding of the part played to date by the National Audubon Society in the effort to establish and maintain such a refuge in the bulk of that part of said bay lying between Belvedere and Strawberry Hill, it will be appreciated if word be conveyed to the members of your Society to the following effect:

1. The National Audubon Society obtained from friends in Marin County an underwriting of $25,000 and offered to pay up to that amount of the purchase cost, provided the rest of the purchase price be contributed by others, and provided that the Society be invited to manage the wildlife refuge, if established, under terms of 99-year, $1 a year leases, including sufficient use restrictions to make refuge maintenance feasible.
2. The National Audubon Society offered, in the event the above be satisfactorily concluded, to donate to the County of Marin and the City of Belvedere, assuming that both participate in the purchase financing, and presumably in amounts proportionate to their respective contributions, its proper share of title to the lands purchased.

As matters stand at this writing, August 19, 1957, negotiations have not been completed as to purchase price or option, the County Board of Supervisors has voted to appropriate $25,000, the Mayor of the City of Belvedere has stated that he believes the voters of that city will wish to approve a bond issue of $50,000 to enable it to contribute such sum and the Society has made the offers above related. The Richardson Bay Foundation has been organized, with Mrs. Norman B. Livermore as president, and is, together with the Marin Conservation League and the Marin Audubon Society, actively cooperating in the furtherance of this project.

— JOHN H. BAKER, *President, National Audubon Society.*

JUNE TRIP TO MT. DIABLO STATE PARK

A perfect day on the mountain greeted some forty birders at Mt. Diablo State Park, Saturday, June 15th. The weather was very clear and mild which helped produce 40 species, one for everyone including 2 visitors from the Sacramento group. Four different elevations on the mountain were surveyed, giving fairly complete coverage to the area. Birds of more than average interest included White-throated Swift, House Wren, California Thrasher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, and especially Sage (Bell's) Sparrow. The following 40 species were observed: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Mourning Dove, White-throated Swift, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn (Calif.) Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Wood Pewee, Violet-green Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Plain Titmouse, Common Bush-Tit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wren-Tit, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mockingbird, California Thrasher, American Robin, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray (Western) Gnatcatcher, Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided (Spotted) Towhee, Brown Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Sage (Bell's) Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Fox Sparrow.

— PETER A. VEITCH, *Leader.*

JULY TRIP TO WRIGHT'S LAKE

Approximately 30 persons turned out for the weekend trip to Wright's Lake. Most were from the Golden Gate Audubon Society, but the Sacramento Audubon Society was also represented by several members, including Leonard Penhale, its president.

Several short hikes were taken to Dark Lake, Twin Lakes, and Beauty Lake. In general, the birding was good. There seemed to be more Western Tanagers than usual and Pine Grosbeaks were observed on several occasions. No Red Crossbills were observed, but they are known to be of erratic habit.

Several Spotted Sandpipers were seen in the swampy meadows at the north end of Wright's Lake, and Hermit Warblers and Williamson Sapsuckers were other noteworthy Canadian-Hudsonian Zone inhabitants observed. The Sapsuckers had two nests near the campground and were watched and photographed by many of the group.

While looking at Pyramid Peak (10,020 ft.) through binoculars, one member spotted a Golden Eagle.

Many of the party saw a Pine Martin on Saturday afternoon. Other mammals

seen were Chipmunks, Golden-mantled Squirrels and Marmots. A Cony was heard on the talus slopes at Twin Lakes.

The wildflowers seemed to be at their height. Some of the species noted were Columbine, Larkspur, Pride-of the mountain, Mariposa Tulip, Star Tulip, Asters, Labrador Tea, Cluster Pentstemon, Spirea, Shooting Stars, and even some late Red Heather at Twin Lakes.

The following 40 species of birds were seen: Golden Eagle, Spotted Sandpiper, California Gull, Nighthawk, Vaux Swift, Rufous Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Wright's Flycatcher, Western Wood Peewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Creeper, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Warbling Vireo (at a lower elevation near Highway 50), Audubon's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Wilson's (Pileolated) Warbler, Brewer's Blackbird, Western Tanager, Evening Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Green-tailed Towhee, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow.

— HARRY ADAMSON, *Historian.*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to our Society: from Alameda, Miss Nancy English; from Berkeley, Miss Elizabeth H. Holden, Miss Anne Payson Cuno, Mrs. H. P. Murphy, Mr. George Fox, and Miss Sylvia Wildman; from Oakland, Mrs. H. Gregg Hodes, Mr. William Harry Lance, and Miss Rose Nowling; from San Francisco, Miss Jane C. Golota; from San Rafael, Mr. George H. Denison.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman.*

OBSERVATION

Camm Swift of Benicia reports finding three nests of the California Clapper Rail in the marsh area adjacent to Southampton Bay, just west of Benicia, between June 10 - 20. One nest found June 10 contained three eggs and one dead young; on June 20 it was empty. The second nest contained one egg on June 10 and six eggs on June 20. The third nest found on June 20 was empty. All of the nests were in short, dark green, reed-like swamp grass, and each was about 15 feet from the nearest slough.

NEW FIELD RECORD CARDS AVAILABLE

The new Pacific Coast Field Record Cards are now available at the Pacific Coast Office of the National Audubon Society, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, California. Prices are as follows: 25 cards (minimum sale), $1.25; 50 cards, $2.00; 100 cards, $3.50. Mail orders will be handled promptly.

SANTA CRUZ OFF-SHORE TRIP

Leavitt M. McQuesten will conduct a 5-hour off-shore trip from Santa Cruz on Tuesday, September 10. A Stagnaro fishing boat will leave the Santa Cruz wharf at 7 a.m. The price is $1.50. For reservations or additional information, write to Mr. McQuesten, 120 Otis Street, Santa Cruz.

OAKLAND PARK DEPARTMENT NATURALIST PROGRAM

New members frequently ask about nature walks in this area. The Oakland Park Department has a weekly program of walks, talks, and special events under the leadership of Paul Covel, Park Naturalist, and David Farrow, Assistant Naturalist. While the September program was not complete when The Gull went to press, the following two trips were definitely scheduled. On Saturday, September 14, there will be a conducted walk in the hills of the Skyline Redwoods area, starting at 9:45 A.M. from opposite Roberts Pool. After the band concert on Sunday, September 15, there will be a conducted walk in Lakeside Park, starting at 4:30 P.M. A complete program is available at the beginning of each month at the National Audubon Society office, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND GARDEN PARTY

The 479th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, September 19th, at 7:30 P.M., following dinner in the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Eric Reynolds, Piedmont. (Please note change of date from that announced in August Gull.) Take No. 18 bus to Leimert and Park Boulevard. Walk one block north to 140 Estates Drive.

This will be the annual Audubon Camp Scholarship Benefit Garden Party. This

year a buffet charcoal-barbecued dinner will be served by caterers. The total cost will be $3.00 per person ($2.00 for the dinner plus $1.00 contribution to the Scholarship Fund).

The order of events will be: 6:00—reception to greet friends and meet new members; 6:30—dinner hour with music by the accordionist; 7:30— business meeting; 8:00—"My Summer at the California Audubon Camp," by Mrs. George C. Browne; also Mr. William Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of the National Audubon Society will give a brief report on recent developments of the Society in California and the West; 8:30—Dr. and Mrs. Eric Reynolds and Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Willis of Sierra Madre will show colored slides and motion pictures of their trip to South America and the Caribbean. They will show such colorful and exotic birds as Scarlet Ibises on the Apure River, Venezuela, Streamer-tailed Hummingbirds in Jamaica gardens, and Flamingos on the Island of Bonaire.

Members unable to make reservations for dinner may attend the meeting without charge. A voluntary contribution will be accepted from those not having dinner reservations who wish to remain for the program.

Dinner reservations are limited to 150, so send the enclosed card immediately, with your check, to the Garden Party Treasurer, Mrs. Del C. Wininger, 5906 Bruns Drive, Oakland 11. Checks should be made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The deadline for reservations is Monday, September 16, when the caterer must be notified. Come and bring your friends. Tables for four or six can be reserved in advance. Don't forget the cause — the Audubon Camp Scholarship Fund.

— LOUISE MUHLER, *Garden Party Chairman.*

FIELD TRIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 14th, to GRASS VALLEY REGIONAL PARK and nearby reservoirs and canyons. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the corner of Mountain Boulevard and Redwood Road in East Oakland. This point can be reached by transferring up 35th Avenue from East 14th Street, Foothill, or MacArthur Boulevards. Transportation to the park entrance will be from the meeting place by private car. This trip actually opens the fall and winter birding season in the Bay Area, which is, of course, our most rewarding time of the year. Come on out and get back in the swing, after three months of limited activities. Co-leaders: Charles Hines, OV 1-0935 (S.F.) and Richard Stallcup, LO 9-3185 (Oakland).

Sunday, September 29th, to BAY FARM ISLAND AND ALAMEDA. Meet at Santa Clara Avenue and High Street, in Alameda at 9:00 A.M. This is possibly the weekend which will be the peak of the Fall shore-bird migration. A considerable amount of favorable habitat has been destroyed by housing developments, fill, and trash dumps since the Fall trip of 1956, but enough remains to guarantee a lively display of interesting species. An area that was once a mecca for bird students is doomed, so let's make the most of it while we may. The tentative leaders of this trip (we hope) will be Mrs. Junea Kelly and/or Howard Cogswell, both of whom are on vacation and unavailable for comment. If neither can be available that day, the trip will be led by Lee Stallcup.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman,* LO 9-3185.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917
A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Paul F. Covel	2860 Delaware Street, Oakland 2,	KE 6-4120
Vice President	Howard L. Cogswell	Box 9486, Mills College, Oakland 13,	NE 6-1573
Vice President	Harold G. Peterson	3548 - 65th Avenue, Oakland 5,	LO 8-7534
Treasurer	Miss Margaret J. Milwain	731 Alma Avenue, Oakland 10,	AN 1-9430
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Roberta J. Long	45 Clarendon Avenue, San Francisco 14,	LO 4-7767
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Glenn E. Hoover	4488 Reinhardt Drive, Oakland 19,	AN 1-3313
Director	Dr. Albert Boles	854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10,	GL 1-6267
Director	Mrs. George C. Browne	2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6,	TW 3-5469
Director	Carl Fox	616 The Alameda, Berkeley,	LA 5-7000
Distribution Chairman	Miss Alice Leet	1050 Spruce Street, Berkeley 7,	LA 4-2488
Membership Chairman	Dr. Jean L. Dunham	4607 Harbord Drive, Oakland 18,	OL 5-1591
Editor	Miss Ruth H. Newborgh	1241 Evelyn Avenue, Berkeley 6,	LA 5-8610
Sanctuary Fund Chairman	Frank A. Scott	1508 La Loma Avenue, Berkeley 8,	TH 1-0188

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042